

ALABAMA

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Need for LWCF State Assistance in Alabama

Presidential outdoor recreation studies under three different administrations in 1964, 1986, and 2010, as well as an independent report by the non-partisan Outdoor Recreation Resources Group in 2009 have all documented the importance and need for LWCF. These reports have also underscored the benefits to the entire nation by providing close-to-home places for outdoor recreation.

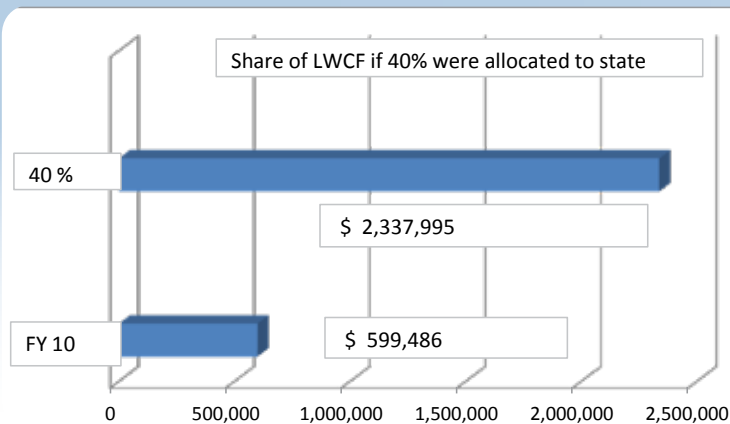
LWCF State Assistance Program in Alabama

Our state has exponentially grown in recent years, and so has the need for outdoor recreation resources. The National Park Service reported the average annual need for outdoor recreational facilities development in Alabama over the last three fiscal years was \$58,633,333. One of the primary reasons for the size of this need has been the lack of equity in the distribution of LWCF funding to the states which in turn has led to reduced state assistance appropriations. In FY2010 the LWCF distribution to Alabama was \$599,486, which represented only 1.02% of the total existing need and funded a small, limited number of projects.



What would a 40% Allocation to the State Assistance Program Accomplish?

If in FY 2010, if 40% of total LWCF funds had been allocated to the State Assistance Program, Alabama would have received an additional \$2,337,995.40 for local and state grants. When matched with the state funds this would have provided an additional \$3,506,993.10 in parks and open space improvements. This would have addressed 5.98% of the total annual need. Over the long term, with this equitable level of funding plus the matching requirement applied, a significant portion of the maintenance backlog identified in Alabama would be addressed. This graph demonstrates the level of funding that was provided to the states in FY 10 and how much more would have been available for state grants if a 40% state share had been required. Had this occurred, our state would have provided more close-to-home recreational resources.



What benefits would be gained in Alabama from requiring a 40% allocation in LWCF?

1. Locally based projects support millions of dollars of economic activity throughout in Alabama.
2. Locally based projects provide citizens access to outdoor activity saving millions in community health benefits.
3. LWCF park projects in Alabama increase property values and strengthen the tax base.
4. Research shows that parks supported by LWCF are key components in community development revitalization.
5. LWCF projects in Alabama provide places for local and regional sports and community events.
6. LWCF projects provide direct benefits providing jobs and contracts for local businesses and employees.

Where can I find a listing of Alabama projects and the communities that have benefitted from this program?

Data from the NPS shows that, on a national basis, 98% of all communities in our country have utilized state and local LWCF grants for projects in the past. You can find the projects for each county in Alabama by going to the National Park Service State Assistance website at:
<http://waso-lwcf.ncrc.nps.gov/public/index.cfm>.



(or scan this)

The LWCF has an impact in Alabama by providing economic benefits and jobs

A recent study by the Outdoor Industry Foundation, estimates a \$730 billion economic contribution of active outdoor to the U.S. economy and provides more than 6.5 million jobs. Additionally, the state and local projects supported by the LWCF provide direct benefits by providing employment for the contractors and their employees who work on these projects. These jobs are created close to home and support the local economy. These data demonstrate the development of facilities and areas using the LWCF State Assistance program pays off for Alabama.